



Chronology of Events Leading to States of Oregon, Idaho & Washington Application for Lethal Removal Authority of Problem California Sea Lions in the Columbia River Basin

January 2007

2000 – The Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion called for an evaluation of marine mammal predation in the tailrace of Bonneville dam (river mile 146 on the Columbia).

April 2001 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Fisheries Field Unit, began documenting seal and seal lion predation of fish (principally adult salmon and steelhead) in the tailrace of Bonneville Dam.

February 2002 – The Corps [monitored seal and sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead](#) February – June. Adult salmon/steelhead run taken during that period was 0.4 percent.

February 2003 – The Corps [monitored seal and sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead](#) February – June. Adult salmon/steelhead run taken during that period was 1.1 percent.

February 2004 – The Corps [monitored seal and sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead](#) February – June. Adult salmon/steelhead run taken during that period was 1.9 percent.

February 2005 – The Corps [monitored seal and sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead](#) February – June. Adult salmon/steelhead run taken during that period was 3.4 percent.

March 2005 – The Corps notified the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA Fisheries Service that California sea lions were particularly active in the dam's tailrace, predation rates appeared to be increasing, and one animal (branded number C404) was observed feeding in the adult fish passage ladders.

May 2005 – Oregon, Washington and NOAA conducted a [short-term research project](#) to test non-lethal deterrence measures to reduce California sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead below Bonneville Dam.

February 2006 – The Corps [monitored seal and sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead](#) February – June. Adult salmon/steelhead run taken during that period was 2.8 percent.

March 2006 – Oregon, Washington, the Corps, and NOAA [expanded testing of non-lethal deterrence measures](#) to reduce California sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead below Bonneville Dam.

December 2006 – Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game [apply to the Secretary of Commerce](#) to authorize the intentional lethal taking of individually identifiable pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) that are having a significant negative impact on the decline or recovery of salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act.

January 2007 – The Secretary of Commerce, acting through NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, [found that the states' application produced sufficient evidence to warrant establishing a Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force](#). NOAA Fisheries Service is soliciting public comments on the application, other information related to sea lion predation on salmon and steelhead at Bonneville dam, and nominations for potential members of the task force.